

Amend the title so as to read "A Bill to authorize the Federal Aviation Administration's research, engineering, and development programs for fiscal years 1998 and 1999, and for other purposes."

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

VETERANS DAY PRESENTATION OF THE SILVER STAR MEDAL TO ALBERT SPONHEIMER, JR.

• Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, on Veterans' Day, I will be participating in a very special ceremony for a very special individual. The occasion is the presentation of a Silver Star Medal 53 years after the event to a World War II veteran named Albert Sponheimer. It gives me great pleasure to submit, for the RECORD, the text of my remarks:

The remarks follow:

SILVER STAR MEDAL PRESENTATION TO ALBERT SPONHEIMER, JR.

I am so proud to be here today to honor Al Sponheimer in front of his family and friends and, of course, all of you in the audience—students who are fortunate enough to witness this historic event.

This is the part of my job I love the most—the fact that we are all here today, 53 years, 5 months and 5 days after the event to witness the presentation of a Silver Star Medal for heroism. Al Sponheimer, a veteran of the Second World War, is a testament to the saying that perseverance pays off.

Al Sponheimer first contacted my office back in December 1994. In a characteristically modest manner, he asked for information about how he might get his Silver Star, in the absence of official documentation, 50 years after the fact. I could see that Al was not comfortable pursuing this, but was probably goaded into it by the four gentlemen sitting next to him today.

Anyway, back to the story. Soon after, we received a letter from Captain Heitz outlining Mr. Sponheimer's heroic actions on June 6, 1944. He wrote:

"PFC Sponheimer was one of two aides men assigned to my battery. In fact, I was his first battlefield patient. He was seen giving first aid to anyone who needed it, not necessarily Battery A personnel. He roamed almost the full length of Omaha Beach, helping where he could while many around him were wounded by flying shrapnel or ricocheting bullets fired from the Germans on the bluff of Omaha Beach."

Once the Army read this letter, I thought for sure they would send Mr. Sponheimer's medal by return mail. This was not the case. The time for consideration of WWII medal requests had expired. We had to apply to the Board for Correction of Military Records where the average length of time for consideration of these requests is about 2 years. The application was sent in on February 7, 1996. 18 months later the Board made a favorable decision—Al would finally receive his Silver Star.

And that is what brings us here today—appropriately on Armistice Day—to correct a 53-year-old record and honor a person who, under enemy fire, performed heroically.

Mr. President, thank you again for this opportunity to submit my remarks for the RECORD. I hope Mr. Sponheimer's story will inspire other veterans to pursue their entitlement to military medals or awards, even if the lapse in time seems insurmountable.

I also want to extend my condolences to the Sponheimer family at the recent

and untimely passing of Al's wife, Audrey. I know her absence will be deeply felt by Al, their children and grandchildren on this special day. •

THE WALT DISNEY CO.: 1997 CORPORATION OF THE YEAR

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate the Walt Disney Co. for being honored as the 1997 Corporation of the Year by the Minority Business Enterprise Input Committee of the Southern California Regional Purchasing Councils [SCRPC], a group of 225 large-scale purchasers located in a 13-county area of southern California.

Formed in 1975, SCRPC seeks to stimulate economic growth and help develop enterprises that can provide useful goods and services at competitive prices, increase employment for underemployed groups, and help bring disadvantaged enterprises into America's market economy.

The Walt Disney Co. earned this prestigious award through its leadership in working with minority-owned businesses. Disney has operated a Minority and Women Business Enterprise Program for more than 15 years, and now does business with more than 900 minority-owned and 600 female-owned businesses.

This special recognition by the SCRPC reflects the high regard suppliers have for Disney's outreach and diversity policies.

It is a great pleasure to honor and recognize the initiative and leadership that has led to this outstanding honor for the Walt Disney Co. •

TRIBUTE TO ALBERT W. MOORE

• Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, I would like to pay tribute to Albert W. Moore for his leadership in a critical American industry. Mr. Moore is retiring after serving 8 years as president of the Association for Manufacturing Technology [AMT], a trade group which represents 374 American builders of machine tools and related equipment. His distinguished career in the industry has spanned 43 years.

The machine tool industry is vital to our country, making possible the production of almost every product which our society today enjoys. More important, these powerful and precise machines are a vital key to the Nation's defense.

During his tenure as president, and earlier as the elected chairman of the association, Mr. Moore has worked to ensure that the U.S. industry was technologically equal to any in the world, and that its companies are strong and well run.

Mr. Moore's efforts have greatly enhanced the position of our machine tool industry, and I congratulate him for a job well done. •

WELCOME HOME 452D ARMY RESERVE ORDNANCE COMPANY

• Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to

welcome home the men and women of the 452d Ordnance Company, an Army Reserve Unit based in Aberdeen, SD, and congratulate them on successfully completing their recent mission to Hungary in support of Bosnian peacekeeping efforts.

The 452d is one of only six direct support ordnance units in the entire U.S. Army. The 452d is also a tier 2A high priority unit, which means that the members of this unit are well-trained, have adequate manpower, and have a high level of readiness. The men and women of the 452d pride themselves on their ability to quickly and effectively mobilize when their country calls upon them.

The 452d has an impressive history of serving the Nation. The 452d Ordnance Company was the first unit in the 6th Army to be deployed during Operation Desert Storm. The members performed extremely well during this mobilization and received the Meritorious Unit Commendation from the Secretary of the Army for their outstanding service. As you know, Mr. President, this is an extremely prestigious award with only a handful of National Guard and Reserve units having ever received it. Furthermore, the 452d was recently inspected and found to be performing at such an outstanding level that the unit is being recommended for the Meritorious Unit Commendation once again. Most units would be honored to simply be nominated for this award, and it is truly a sign of the 452d's excellence that it may receive the award twice.

In addition to helping lead coalition forces to victory in the Middle East, the 452d brought relief to many in their hometown of Aberdeen, SD, by aiding emergency management efforts in recent winter storms and flooding. The 452d is a shining example of how reserve units across the country are being called upon more frequently to serve their country both at home and abroad.

The men and women of the 452d began their most recent, and perhaps most demanding, mission in March of this year when 83 members of the unit were mobilized for duty in Europe. For the past 8 months, these individuals were stationed at Taszar Air Base, Hungary, supporting peacekeeping efforts in Bosnia. Unit members were rotated into Bosnia from time to time, venturing inside one of the most politically volatile areas in the world.

Of course, the soldiers who were mobilized were not the only ones who sacrificed in service to their country. The families of these servicemembers also exhibited extreme courage in facing new challenges and additional responsibilities in the absence of their loved ones. To help with that transition, the 452d Family Support Group provided guidance, assistance, and support. In fact, during the Persian Gulf conflict, the 452d Family Support Group received the Best Small Unit Family Outreach Program Award from the 96th Army Reserve Command. The 452d